

When I think about this just cause in which we are engaged, and the unfortunate pain that comes with the loss of our heroes, I hope that families like Kyle's can find comfort in the words of the prophet Isaiah who said, "He will swallow up death in victory; and the Lord God will wipe away tears from off all faces."

May God grant strength and peace to those who mourn, and may God be with all of you, as I know He is with Kyle.

FIRST LIEUTENANT EDWARD D. IWAN

Mr. NELSON of Nebraska. Mr. President, I rise today to honor First Lieutenant Edward D. Iwan of Albion, NE.

First Lieutenant Iwan was a man who led by example and his leadership deserves the utmost honor. He was raised on a farm near Albion, NE and was a 1994 graduate of Albion High School where he was active in Future Farmers of America and Student Council. First Lieutenant Iwan valued his church, family, and country; and following high school he served 3 years in the United States Army. He then returned to Nebraska and earned a Bachelor of Science degree in Criminal Justice. During college he remained active in the Armed Forces including the ROTC, National Guard and Army Reserve. In December of 2001, First Lieutenant Iwan returned full-time to the Army.

During his last tour of duty to our country this soldier was promoted from Second to First Lieutenant, served in several locations, and was deployed to Iraq in January of 2004 with the 2nd Battalion, 2nd Infantry Regiment, 1st Infantry Division. First Lieutenant Edward D. Iwan was killed in action on Friday, November 12, 2004 during sustained combat in Fallujah, Iraq. This brave soldier led by example to the very end, when even as his unit was under attack, he continued to guide his troops. He was killed when a rocket propelled grenade struck his Bradley Fighting Vehicle. His final heroic moments resulted in the posthumous awards of a Purple Heart and Bronze Star.

I offer my sincere thoughts and prayers to the family and friends of First Lieutenant Iwan. His service to our Nation will forever be appreciated. He was an outstanding American, Nebraskan, and soldier who embodied the bravery, spirit, grace and values of our grateful Nation.

MARINE LANCE CORPORAL SHANE E. KIELION

Mr. President, I rise today to also honor Marine LCpl Shane E. Kielion of La Vista, NE.

Lance Corporal Kielion, a young man with a bright future, heroically served our Nation. As a 1999 graduate of South High School he attended Peru State College and was employed before deciding to enter the United States Marine Corps in 2002. He wed his high school sweetheart, April, while being stationed in San Diego. Lance Corporal Kielion was assigned 3rd Battalion, 5th Marine Regiment, 1st Marine Division, 1 Marine Expeditionary Force, Marine Corps Base Camp in Pendleton, CA.

Lance Corporal Kielion died November 15, 2004, from injuries sustained from small arms fire as a result of enemy action. On that same day, Lance Corporal Kielion's son was born. Shane Jr. is a living remembrance of his father who was a brave and dedicated son, brother, friend, husband, and Marine.

I would like to extend my sympathy to all those who were blessed to know Lance Corporal Kielion and remind them that he will always be remembered as a brave and dedicated U.S. marine. Loyal and honorable are two appropriate descriptions of LCpl Shane Kielion who will forever remain in the hearts and minds of those he left behind including his wife and son.

SERGEANT NICHOLAS S. NOLTE

Mr. President, I rise today to honor Marine SGT Nicholas S. Nolte of Falls City, NE.

As a 1998 graduate of Falls City Sacred Heart, Nicholas S. Nolte demonstrated honor, dignity, and bravery in his decision to join the Marines after graduation. Sergeant Nolte was so dedicated to his service that he reenlisted after his original 4-year commitment and was assigned to the 2nd Low Altitude Air Defense Battalion, 2nd Marine Aircraft Wing, II Marine Expeditionary Force, Marine Corps Air Station, in Cherry Point, NC. He was also a member of the Presidential Helicopter Squadron HMX-1 where he honorably guarded and served President Clinton and President Bush.

On November 9, 2004 while serving in Iraq, Sergeant Nolte was injured as a result of enemy action when a roadside bomb hit his vehicle in Al Anbar Province, Iraq. He later died from his wounds on November 24th at the National Naval Medical Center in Bethesda, MD.

Sergeant Nolte left behind his wife Melina and daughter Alanna. He is survived by many family, friends, and countrymen who honor his bravery for serving our Nation and fighting for our freedom. I would like to express my heartfelt thoughts and prayers for Sergeant Nolte's family. Sergeant Nolte will be remembered as a Marine who fought and died for liberty and freedom for all Americans and Nebraskans.

#### TRIBUTE TO STAFF SERGEANT DONALD D. GRIFFITH, JR.

Mr. GRASSLEY. Mr. President, I rise today to remember a fallen soldier, SSG Donald D. Griffith, Jr., a member of B Troop, 2nd Squadron, 14th Cavalry Regiment, 25th Infantry Division, Fort Lewis, WA. Staff Sergeant Griffith died on March 11, 2005, in Tal Afar, Iraq, when his dismounted patrol was attacked by enemy forces using small arms fire. My heart goes out to his parents and family, who reside in Mechanicsville, IA, and his wife in Lakewood, WA.

Today, this Nation remembers and honors a man who sacrificed his life to defend his fellow soldiers and his coun-

try. With the death of Donald Griffith, this Nation lost a hero.

We know that there is no greater gift than the laying down of one's life for another. Staff Sergeant Griffith has given us that gift and we are forever grateful for his sacrifice. I ask that my colleagues join me reflecting on the memory of Donald D. Griffith, Jr. as we extend our thoughts and prayers to his family and friends.

#### TRIBUTE TO SENATOR HOWELL HEFLIN

Mr. LEVIN. Mr. President, it is with deep sadness that I learned this past week of the passing of a dear friend and former colleague, Senator Howell Heflin.

My thoughts and prayers today and those of my wife, Barbara, are with his loving wife, Elizabeth Ann "Mike", and his family.

Everyone thought of Howell as "Judge" Heflin, even as he served in the Senate, because he forever looked and acted the part of the "country judge". He came to the Senate, as I did, in the class of 1978. Howell was then already a distinguished jurist, having served 6 years as chief justice of the Alabama Supreme Court. He went on to build a solid reputation and to play an important role in the life of the Senate over the next 18 years.

Howell Heflin, a man of not only intellect, but warmth and good-humor, tackled some of the more thankless tasks in the Senate, including the arcane issues involving bankruptcy and administrative practice, and serving as the chairman of the Senate Ethics Committee in particularly turbulent times. He could always be counted on to approach difficult issues with careful thoughtful analysis, and to apply his balanced judgement objectively. For this reason, and others, Howell Heflin was respected on both sides of the aisle. In fact, he frequently served as a bridge between Democrats and Republicans in a way sorely needed in today's Senate. He was a true moderate, moderate in politics and by temperament. His demeanor, his objectivity, as well as his expertise, diligence and attention to the facts, have been missed and are among the very elements most needed now in this Chamber if we are to hope to remain the world's most deliberative body.

Senator Heflin served the people of Alabama, proudly. He served our nation with genuine dignity. And, today, as I look back on the life and career of Howell Heflin, I reflect on how proud I am of having had the opportunity to serve with this very special man, and to call him my friend.

#### LOCAL LAW ENFORCEMENT ENHANCEMENT ACT OF 2005

Mr. SMITH. Mr. President, I rise today to speak about the need for hate crimes legislation. Each Congress, Senator KENNEDY and I introduce hate